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(c) the number of suits instituted in each district for refund of the sales tax levied and connected reliefs and in how many cases decrees have been passed against the Government;

(d) the amount of expense incurred by Government in each district in connexion therewith; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to appoint a retired High Court Judge to consider the legality of levy of the tax in the case of commission agents?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (a) Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, provides for the exemption from sales tax of commission agents subject to certain conditions. During the initial stages of the administration of the Act, the exemption was allowed rather liberally as the provisions of the Act had not become familiar to merchants. Consequent on the enhancement of the rates of sales-tax with effect from 1st October 1945 it was observed that a large number of regular dealers evaded sales tax by claiming exemption as commission agents. Strict administration of the provisions of the Act since 1943 has resulted in a number of so called commission agent being assessed to sales tax. They were assessed as the nature of their business was not such as would entitle them to exemption under the provisions of section 8 of the Act and the conditions of the licence granted under that section.

" (b) to (d) The information asked for by the hon. Member is furnished in the statement[a] laid on the Table of the House.

" (e) The answer is in the negative."

Technical education in the Province.

* 68 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of polytechnics and the number of industrial schools in the Province;

(b) the number of institutions directly managed by Government and the number in receipt of grant-in-aid;

(c) the arrangements for settling the courses of studies, examinations and inspections in these institutions;

(d) whether it is a fact that at present different types of technical colleges and schools are under different departments of Government;

(e) whether the Government have at any time considered the advisability of constituting a Provincial Council of Technical Education similar to the All-India one, to co-ordinate all kinds of technical education;

(f) whether there is any proposal to create a Department of Technical Education under the Department of Industries; and

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 354 infra.

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(*g*) if so, whether the Engineering and other technological institutions also will be brought under the proposed new department?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) There are at present nine polytechnics and eighty-five industrial schools in this Province.

" (*b*) Seven polytechnics and five industrial schools are directly managed by Government. Two polytechnics, and 72 industrial schools are in receipt of grant-in-aid.

" (*c*) In the case of polytechnics, all matters regarding the settling of the courses, conduct of examinations and issue of diplomas are being administered by the Technological Diploma Examination Board constituted by Government with the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce as its Chairman. In the case of the Aided Industrial Schools, these matters are in charge of the heads of the institutions. Inspections are regularly carried out by the two Inspectors of Industrial Schools and the Inspector for Textiles. Periodical inspections are carried out by the Director and the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce.

" (*d*) Yes. Polytechnics and industrial schools are under the control of Department of Industries and engineering colleges are under the control of the Education Department.

" (*e*) The Government have constituted a Standing Advisory Board to advise them on all matters connected with technical education.

" (*f*) No. There is no proposal to create a separate department of Technical Education under the Department of Industries.

" (*g*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*f*)."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what the constitution is of the Standing Advisory Board, referred to in answer to clause (*e*)? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI—" Recently a Standing Advisory Board to advise Government on technical education has been constituted."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know which departments of Government are represented on it, because we, the public, are not aware of the Government Order appointing such a Committee."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" All the information will be furnished in the discussion of the resolution of the hon. Member which is coming up for discussion to-day." (Laughter.)

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In fact, I want that information to assist me in moving my resolution." (Laughter.)